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CHRISTMAS BELLS.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER.
BY MARK MEREDITH.

Oh, bells that chime out blithe and glad,
What message do ye bring?
"Peace to the heart so lone and sad,
This do we sing!
The better days are coming now,
Oh, weary hearts that bow!"
This is the message sweet that wells
From Christmas bells!
Oh, Yuletide hours of happiness,
What message do ye bring?
"Good cheer and joy now come to bless,
Mirth now be king!
Upon the face no frowns appear—
To kindness dedicate the year!"
This is the message sweet that wells
From Christmas bells!
Oh, voice that fills the frosty air,
The winds a message bring,
They sing a truce to mortal care,
Bid grief take wing!
A kinder thrill the heart awakes,
The dawn of happiness now breaks;
This is the message sweet that wells
From Christmas bells!
Chime on to glad the happy land,
Your message ever bring!
To hovel drear, to palace grand,
Echo and sing!
Make nearer man to fellow man,
And sea and ocean gladly span—
This is the message sweet that wells
From Christmas bells!

THE PROMPTER'S CHRISTMAS

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER.
BY LULU PRIOR.

It was a cold Christmas Eve in that nascent period of spectacular drama immediately after the great rebellion had ended, and a grand extravaganza, unlike anything ever seen in the metropolis in the way of grand scenery, mechanical devices, the skilful use of colored lights, and a real ballet, was crowding one of the largest theatres of New York. It was nearly eleven o'clock, and the first flakes of what promised to be a heavy snowstorm had begun to fall. The crowd of dandies at the stage door, waiting for the ballet to troop out on their way home, brightened up and seemed less dismayed than they had for a "bad quarter of an hour" before. The sounds from the stage, as the swinging doors of the vestibule flapped to and fro, to give access to the old man and old woman and certain others of the dramatic company who were of little interest to the watchers, gave assurance that the grand final picture of the extravaganza was on at that moment, and that in a short time the ballet, released from their fairy poses, would fly to their arms.

A young girl with dark eyes and a pretty face, which was almost concealed by a white worsted comforter or "cloud," as it was then called, peeped out through the storm doors, scanning the crowd waiting outside in the cold, and then looking up and down the street, evidently without discovering what she sought. She gave an exclamation of impatience, stamped her foot, and, banging the doors to, shut out the pleasant vision from the eyes of the "rear guard," who gave a sigh in unison. They had recognized the young actress as the favorite and most beautiful of the dramatic company. Her duties were finished, generally, at ten o'clock, and she usually left the theatre half an hour after. As old habits of the stage door they knew that; so, great was the surprise among them when they saw her loitering here at nearly eleven. She scorned all of them, and had an especially freezing air which she could put on in an emergency that repulsed the boldest and gave a chill to the most ardent.

They had not long to wait, "for in less than five minutes, just as the ballet, shivering in their wraps, came swarming merrily to the street, a carriage, coming from down town and driven furiously, drew up near by, and a young man leaped out. He was attired finely and in good taste, but not with the ultra-fashionable rigor of the waiting crowd, and his dashing, eager, reckless way proved he was not one of them. He plunged out of the coach, elbowed the dandies aside, stemmed the tide of the outflowing ballet, and with a nod to the doorkeeper, sitting stern and watchful at the inner door, pushed it open and stepped on the stage, the grim one whispering as he went by: "You're going to catch it." The young actress, who had been watching at the outer door at frequent intervals during a half hour, still wrapped to the eyes, and satchel in hand, stood at one of the upper wings of the now darkened stage. He approached her eagerly, and took the bag from her after a petulant resistance on her part.

"Well, I like this!" said she, with a flash of her black eyes that would have made a person of less assurance than this young chap wince: "You're half an hour late. Why did you come at all?"

"You're not going to be angry now, are you, Gracie?" said he.

"Don't you dare to speak to me so familiarly. My name is Miss Grace Travers, and I command the young woman, peevishly.

"It's Gracie on the bills, though—Isn't it Gracie?" insisted the young man. "Now, listen to me. It was all on account of that beastly night editor. He would keep me there as emergency man, although I told him you were waiting here in the cold for me; but all night editors are bloodless fungi—there isn't one of them that has anything like romance, or even a heart in him. How can any man have who lives in the dark and never gets a ray of sunlight?"

"You say that, do you?" interrupted the young woman. "You tell every one I'm waiting in the cold for you, as if there were no other man in the world willing to escort me home, that I must wait for you to escape your dreadful night editor by making me your excuse! Waiting in the cold for you, indeed!" and with this she took the satchel from him and started for the doorway.

The young man followed her closely. "I have a carriage waiting," said he.

"You can use it yourself, or take the other lady home in it," said she.

"What other lady?" he inquired.

"Oh, you know well enough," she replied, with a toss of the head and an attempt to look very knowing. "Come, come, Gracie, this is all nonsense, and you know it. I don't make you the excuse for my shortcomings, and you know there's no one else I care for. And as for the rest, how could you think anyone would be willing to leave such a darling girl like you out in the cold?"

He laughed merrily, as the natural reckless air of his class asserted itself. He evidently felt sure he should carry it off with a high hand, but the young woman was not to be placated so easily.

time he had played every part in the whole round of the legitimate, doing often on the same night tragedy, romantic drama, farce and pantomime; so there was nothing he did not know about the stage and its traditions. On the patrons of the drama he had not so firm a hold; in fact he had lost the public altogether. This had occurred a couple of seasons before he lost his voice, and he still lingered a reluctant veteran on the scene. At last, however, he found it obligatory to retire out of sight, and took refuge at the prompt desk, where his experience was of service to the budding Theatricals of the new era. At rehearsals he was a disciplinarian of the stern, old-fashioned school, and, albeit he was quaint in his ways and rigid in his rules, his advice

that within three or four years there had been a mortgage placed on the little home, since dark days had come to the actress and her husband. What the neighbors did not like, however, was the Bohemian sort of life, the extravagance and the reckless improvidence of the family. They were likely to lose their home through foreclosure in these pinching times, and yet they made no attempt apparently, to stem the tide of misfortune. On the contrary, they lived calmly on in their old, unconventional way, with no dread of tomorrow disturbing them. Once the neighbors thought they detected something irregular, which seemed to argue that business methods had been adopted in the little house. There was a pale faced young

the wrist, posing with an air of mock triumph as she passed by him to enter. She tried to sniff and look scornfully at him, but a glance of his eye was too much for her equanimity. She burst into a laugh, and the two, hand in hand, entered merrily, closing the door behind them with a bang.

The reconciled couple tipped into the lighted room on the first floor, which was used as a sitting room and parlor, chorusing "Merry Christmas" to the accompaniment of the chimes, which had begun to ring out from the church towers. As they entered their eyes fell on old Sam, who was sitting at a centre table, on which was a lighted lamp, poring over a large book with yellow pages and soiled, worn covers. So interested was he that he had not taken off his hat nor put aside his cane, but sat there reading, perfectly oblivious to the intrusion.

"Didn't I say so?" laughed Tom, pointing to the old man. "I said he had another dismal old book or we'd have heard from him the moment we tackled the hall door. I say, Sam," he continued, raising his voice with a tone of assurance, "What's the news? Don't keep it all to yourself."

The prompter looked up with a bewildered air at first, as if he had just come out of another world. "Oh, yes, to be sure," said he, recognizing them. "When did you get home?"

"Just this moment," answered Gracie, laughing and exchanging merry glances with Tom.

"Strange I didn't hear you," said the old man; "but this is a rare old copy of Popsy's Diary, with old fashioned plates, and unabridged. I saw it today among a lot of seized Custom House goods, and took my last two dollars to buy it. A good speculation, that. It brings me in a profit of eight dollars."

"Eight dollars? How?"

"Why, it's worth ten, and I got it for two. Two and eight are ten—isn't that so?" chuckled the old gentleman.

"Then you intend to sell it again?" inquired Tom.

"Sell it?" repeated the prompter indignantly. "What should I sell it for?"

"To make eight dollars."

"Bah! What are eight dollars beside this treasure?"

"Ah! I see," put in young Styles, "you meant you made eight dollars in your mind."

"Yes, that's it exactly. I made it in my mind, and I'm going to keep it there," replied Travers, and the three laughed merrily and loud, perfectly regardless of what the neighbors might think.

"Any news of mother?" the young woman inquired at last.

"Oh, good gracious! Bless me! I forgot all about it. I was so interested in my book. I got a telegram at the theatre tonight. She's coming home, and asked me to meet her at the station. What time is it? Where's my hat? Confound it all! One can never keep the run of things here," and he went about searching in the corners in a great fury.

"Why, father, it's on your head," said the daughter merrily.

He felt and found it there. "True," said he, "I'm all dustered. Dear! dear! This is too bad! What time do you say it is?"

"A quarter past twelve," said the young man.

Old Sam sank back into his chair. "It's too late," he exclaimed. "The train was due half an hour ago." Then, with a laugh, as he pitched his hat and cane aside, "we'll hear from Miranda, later on, never fear."

They all laughed at the portentous tone in which he enunciated this prophecy, as if Miranda were a lady of whom they did not stand in very great awe after all.

Suddenly old Sam started up again. "Great Scott!" he exclaimed. "I was forgetting. There's no beer, and the Doctor's coming to see the day in with us." The "Doctor," so called, was a sort of Bohemian, scientist, ex-critic and litterateur, who knew much, practiced little, and made nothing. "Where's my hat again?" went on the old gentleman, poking aimlessly in the dark corners of the room. "I declare I can never keep track of that hat!"

There was a long search before he recovered it. Then, clapping it on his head, he walked with his usual dignified tread into the rear apartment, where he was heard rattling pans and clinking crockery.

Gracie, who had removed her wraps, had seated herself on the stool at the little piano and was twirling nervously to and fro.

"Why don't you assist him?" suggested Tom.

"To make a noise? He would not let me," replied the young actress. "He doesn't like to be interfered with."

"If he were my dad I'd lead him into gentler ways."

"But you never had a father—that is, you never knew one," said the young girl, thoughtlessly. "You have only a sick mother, you dear good boy, whom you care for."

This undoubtedly awoke some unpleasant memories in the reporter's mind—something beyond the ordinary sentimental emotion, too—for there was a momentary flash in his eyes and a frown on his brow, which was dispelled at once as he changed the topic. The young girl turned very red and seemed much confused, having been reminded at that late moment that she had thoughtlessly touched upon a tender spot in her companion's heart.

The fact was, and she knew it well, that the invalid mother of Tom Styles had been for years claiming her rights in the estate of the late Marvin Styles. She set up a claim as his widow; insisted that she had been married to him at a little village in New York, and then had accompanied him directly to Paris, where they had lived together for ten years. He died during a business visit to New York, and she returned to her country with her son, Tom, aged about nine years. The millionaire had no relatives but distant cousins, and these promptly denied that Tom's mother had ever been married to Marvin Styles, or that Tom was, indeed, his son. Thereupon, the poor woman, who had always been unused to the cruel ways of the world, sought for the jewel case in which she had hidden her marriage certificate.

It had been stolen. All her trunks had been ransacked by thieves, evidently in the transit between Paris and Havre. The old minister who had per-



Edwin Gordon Lawrence

"You're not a bit funny," snapped she. "I'm not going home in your old carriage, I tell you; I'm going to walk home all by myself; and what's more, I don't want you to follow me." and away she started up the dark street, a few paces ahead of him.

"But I will follow you," said he, starting after her. "I'll follow you all the way home and into the house, for I have an appointment with your father for a game of cards and a smoke, and we're going to greet Christmas at midnight. You can't take all the jollity out of Christmas, if you are chilly and in bad humor tonight!"

She said nothing, but hurried on bravely through the dark, he, obedient to her command, waving off the coachman, and following closely on foot. A sound of revelry out ahead made her visibly slacken her pace. A party of drunken roysterers appeared and staggered by. She fell back and seized the young man's arm, and clung to it with a nervous grip. He laughed softly, but said nothing.

"Oh, Tom," said she, in a tone and manner that showed the mollifying effects of her recent fright, "you are real mean to forget and neglect me so. On Christmas Eve, too, when every one else is so happy."

"I didn't forget you. It was that infernal night editor, I tell you. I wouldn't do such a thing. You know I wouldn't," insisted he with a renewal of that cool assurance for which Tom Styles, the reporter, was famed, even above all his hustling comrades.

He was an ambitious, self-reliant young fellow of about twenty-three, who would shrink from no task, from rewriting "Hamlet" to giving Beethoven and Gounod musical instruction. The spectacle now running with such great success had been provided with "talk" by him, but since the thing ran, as he said, on its legs, and not on its head, he expected no literary fame from it. He rested all his hopes of glory on his emotional play, at that time enjoying a forced run to slim houses at the up-town theatre where Gracie Travers' father was the prompter.

Mr. Samuel Travers, or old Sam, as his familiar called him, was an actor of the old school. In his

was, on the whole, most salutary. There was scarcely a member of the company but would bow willingly to the dictum of old Sam, and while, perhaps, not following it exactly, still extract from it much of the occult ease and charm of the art whose secret forces they were all trying to acquire. Like his class of old time stage directors, old Sam had acquired a deal of learning on a variety of topics, and could afford to be didactic in other things besides the methods of the drama. He was a most inveterate reader, and the more abstruse the subject of a work the more insatiable seemed his thirst for it. He had lived for thirty years in a little house in the heart of the Greenwich village side of New York and had made few or no acquaintances in his neighborhood. Indeed, he was regarded as an abnormal creature by those who saw him every day, at a certain hour, wandering forth with a rusty old book in his hand, reading a sentence or two and then muttering incoherently, as he made his way to rehearsal.

In attire he was always neatness personified, though his clothing was not of fashionable cut. His wife the neighbors had long ago decided to be a very beautiful woman, and after living thirty years under their espionage was yet, despite the ravages of time, a very dignified, queenly matron. She was still in the profession, and in this day when combination companies were rapidly replacing the stock organizations, was often obliged to abandon her household and disappear from the eyes of the gossipers for months at a time. Her daughter, Gracie, was herself bred to the profession, and engaged, as we have seen, in a city theatre for the small ingenue roles, as was proper, in the eyes of her rigid father, for "a child of a girl of seventeen who was just beginning to learn her business." All the neighbors agreed that she was very beautiful, too—the very counterpart of her mother as she had been thirty years before, and seemingly a very modest, quiet, prim little creature.

Everyone knew, too, that the old actor had purchased the little two story and attic house with money saved from the salaries of himself and his wife, in the palmy days when their names were in large letters on the theatre bills, and they knew

man occupying one of the upper rooms. But when, after three months of watching, they learned that this young man was a penniless artist—a scene painter who had been taken in and cared for by the "play actors" without hope of reward, and who died on their hands, adding to his other expenses the cost of burial, they held up their hands in wonder at the reckless extravagance of the prompter and his family.

Another thing, too, that the neighbors set their faces against, there were lights in the little parlor, and laughter and merry talk often until two in the morning, and the young actress, Gracie Travers, had lately taken the habit of returning from the theatre (a walk of thirty minutes) by some roundabout way, which left her a full hour over the time. This was only on the nights when she was escorted by a young man whom she called Tom. Frequently he would be invited in by old Sam himself, and on these occasions the mirth ran higher than ever in the little parlor.

On this Christmas Eve, however, Gracie and Tom must have taken the direct route to her home, for they arrived there in exactly twenty minutes. The young woman was pouting, and the *cis a vis* neighbor who, as usual, was watching through the blinds remarked that there was not the usual chatter and giggling between the pair. Gracie tried the key, but, either through nervousness or anger, could not make the night latch work and had to appeal to her companion, who stood whistling softly to himself while she was struggling with the lock.

"Ring the bell," said he; "Old Sam must have locked us out. He's probably got another old book and has forgotten everything else in the world."

"I can't ring it. You know it's broken. You know that as well as I," replied the young girl.

"Why that was broken a month ago. And not mended yet! Well, old Sam isn't much on business promptitude, is he?" said Tom reflectively.

"Will you try, or do you intend I shall stand here all night listening to your stupid philosophy?" asked Gracie with a faint reserve of her former indignation springing her tone.

The young man took the key from her hand, then, inserting it, opened the door with an easy turn of

NEW JERSEY.

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competent to carry t
until 18. Andrew M.

[illegible]

John Lange, callist,
The affair occurs 19
years at the Hukab

Newark.—At Miner's Chalmery theatre, where the "Gaiety" revival of "The Merchant of Venice" has been running since last week, the audience has been excellent. The present week Robert Mantall presents the story, which the public will no doubt appreciate. The play was first produced at the New York Theatre by A. Hunter, a theatrical manager of Newark, who had the good fortune to lose his eyesight a few years ago. He died last year, leaving a son, also named A. Hunter. Mr. Paul comes Christmas week as "The Merchant of Venice." James C. Mack's first appearance here as a comedian was last week, and he made a fine success of it. "How my girl!" is under current attraction, and the opening performance was very successful. The company includes Harry Harrison, and the house was good. John Kernal comes Christmas week.

The Rose Hill Co. played a profitable week ending 14. Al Reeves Show stops there this week, and the first appearance of Lillian is likely to attract the largest audience yet seen at the theatre. The company includes Harry Harrison, with her four black boys, opened with the show 16 and was very successful. The City Stars is the bill for next week.

News.—There is quite a little talk about town of new theatres being built, and several men are said to be looking for sites. One of the most prominent of these is Watson & Spence is heard, and also Chas. Giff. Harry Williams is also said to be favorably impressed with the plan. Mr. Hamilton, who has been connected with Miner's Theatre for several years, has been appointed chief agent.—Major Agnes O'Brien, who is expected to sail for Pearl Street a new ship, in a few weeks, will be in the nature of a second night performance.

Paterson.—The Active Athletic 17, 18. "Forgiven"

ELIZABETH.—At the Drake Opera House John Kernell came in to only a fair sized audience, owing the waning care that seized the people. To arrive "Foggy" 17, "Little Lord Fountleroy" 25, machine, a new one, 10, and "The Merry Widow" 25, all given for the benefit of the poor children, the use of the House and Wallingford, and the Monroe and Merriam.

LIVIN' THREAS.—Cook's Minstrels (amateurs) played 14, to only fair sized audience, benefit of the Junior Red Cross, 10, and "The Merry Widow" 25, all given for the benefit of the poor children, the use of the House and Wallingford, and the Monroe and Merriam.

THE MERRY WIDOW.—This theatre has lost a number of local rentals, but it has been long.

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WISCONSIN.

MILWAUKEE.—The Davidson Theatre presents Pauline Hall, in "Dorcas," Dec. 15, and Joseph Jefferson in "Rip Van Winkle," 16, and "Tricket on the Heart."

18, and David Hel
19-21. Sol Smith l
audiences the use

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cheap season at
manager of Won
with his "Life fo

Fond du Lac.—At the Crescent John D. opened Dec. 12, for three nights, to a full house. J. Emmet, in "Fritz in a Mad House," comes 17.

Charleston

Baldwin Mills Co. played to 8,000 at every performance week of Dec. 9-14. They also gave the first 10¢ matinee ever given in this city. "Shore Acres" continued 17, Minnie Maddern Fiske 20, 21.

THE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY gave a concert Dec.

ew Orleans.—Bracing weather, together with excellent attractions, served to increase the attendance on playhouses, and formed another link in the chain of success awarded the painstaking managers of the various theatres of the Crescent City.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Lillian Russell gave "The Girl and the Bachelors" to excellent effect tonight, packed the house, and will continue week-end. Dec. 16, in "The Little Girl" and "La Perichole."

THE MISTRESS.—Wm. H. Crane attracted large audiences with his highly appropriate and successful play, "The Night, His Wife's Father," "Brother John," and "The Artist." Richards & Prince's main-trails come here.

CRANFORD.—Auntie Matron and Fox, in "Two Weeks' Vacation," drew large houses, and will be triumphantly and handsomely by actor actors. The Danmoch Co. comes

INDIANA

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ATHLETIC.

COMING EVENTS.

Dec. 19—Suffolk Athletic Club, Boston, and Worcester Athletic Club joint indoor games, Worcester, Mass. Jan. 27, 1896—National Athletic Club and Company F, Forty-seventh Regiment, N. Y. S. N. Y., joint indoor games, armory, Brooklyn, N. Y. Feb. 1—New Jersey Athletic Club Carnival of Sports, Madison Square Garden, N. Y. City. Feb. 1—Amateur Athletic Union ten mile flat race and two mile steeplechase, for championship, Madison Square Garden, New York City. Feb. 20—Company I, Twelfth Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., and West Side Athletic Club joint indoor games, armory, New York City. July 4—Amateur Athletic Union individual all around championship competition, Bergen Point, N. J.

The Seventy-first Regiment.

N. G. S. N. Y., entertained their legion of friends of both sexes at their armory in this city, Saturday evening, Dec. 14, when the initial indoor games for the present winter were held. The sport provided was fully up to the mark, for, although nothing sensational marked the evening's performance, the contests, almost without exception, were highly interesting by reason of their closeness and exciting finishes. The Tod Cup, offered for company competition on the score of points, was won by Company B, with 62; Company I second, 30; Company I third, 22; Company H fourth, 11. Summary:

Sixty-five yards run.—Won by W. Garrigue, Company D, 37; L. Lustig, Company F, scratch, second; E. F. Simpson, Company B, 47; third, Time, 1:15. Four hundred and forty yards run.—Won by E. Chatfield, Company I, S. L. Topitz, Company F, second; R. Olin, Company I, 3; third, Time, 1:05. One mile safety bicycle race.—Won by E. L. Flaudreau, Company B, scratch; J. Elmdorf, Company D, 35; second, E. S. Lock, Company B, 35; third, Time, 3:35. Fifty yards sack race.—Won by H. Olin, Company I, scratch; N. Sweet, Company B, second; W. T. Wright, Company B, 3; third, Time, 7:55. Two hundred and twenty yards run.—Won by O. J. Ott, Company I, 7; W. Garrigue, Company D, 3; second, L. W. Tindale, Company B, 6; third, Time, 1:07. Fencing 16th shot.—Won by E. F. Simpson, Company B, 7; W. T. Wright, Company B, 6; second, J. Elmdorf, Company D, 6; third, Time, 3:10. Half mile run.—Won by J. Bartlett, Company B, 40; J. C. Schlosser, Company H, 35; second, E. F. Gries, Company B, 35; third, Time, 2:15. One mile roller skating race.—Won by W. F. Smith, Company H, 35; W. T. Weir, Company B, scratch, second; J. H. Morris, Company B, 35; third, Time, 4:25. One mile race.—Won by J. Elmdorf, Company D, 35; A. Michel, Company H, scratch, second; R. D. Cluff, Company C, 60; third, Time, 3:55. Two hundred yards run.—Won by E. F. Simpson, Company B, 40; J. C. Schlosser, Company H, 35; second, L. W. Tindale, Company B, 6; third, Time, 1:07. Running high jump.—Won by S. L. Topitz, Co. E, 2; with an actual jump of 5 ft. 4 in.; W. T. Wright, Co. B, 4 in.; second, Art. Hill, Co. D, 3; third, Time, 1:15. Two mile bicycle race.—Won by E. L. Flaudreau, Co. B, scratch; E. S. Lock, Co. B, 35; second, J. Elmdorf, Co. D, 35; third, Time, 3:35. Eight lap relay race.—Won by Co. I's team, composed of J. E. Chatfield, O. J. Ott, J. H. Bueli and H. Olin; Co. B's team was second and Co. C's team, third, Time, 38:35.

Christian Association League.

For some time past a movement has been on foot looking to the organization of a Young Men's Christian Association athletic league of North America, and matters have so far progressed so satisfactorily that it is intended to organize at a meeting to be held next month. Some time ago a circular was sent out by the International Committee, reading as follows:

The International Conventions of 1889 and 1891 decided favorably the formation of an athletic league. In the International Convention held at Springfield, Mass., May, the subject was again fully discussed, and a resolution was adopted, without a dissenting voice, commending the efforts of the International Committee to form an athletic league of the association, to promote the interest of pure sport or skill, but the best development of the body, because of the relations the body sustains to the man.

Since that time the matter has been carried forward as rapidly as possible, and a definite step was taken on Oct. 5, in the appointment of a special committee, which, under the direction of the International Committee, should govern the league. This committee met in its first meeting in the city of New York, on Oct. 10, at No. 40 East Twenty-third street, on Oct. 4.

The main object of the league may be stated broadly as to further all play department interests. Other objects of the league are to organize, conduct and provide trophies for the inter association, international, state and district athletic and gymnastic contests; to formulate general athletic and gymnastic rules, decide protests, award a genuine and high amateur standard, and represent the association as a body before the other athletic bodies of the country. The league will be organized on the following general principles:

Membership in the league will be limited to associations and branches which apply for admission, pay their dues and abide by the principles. Government will be by the International Convention, through the International Committee, which has appointed a general committee of superintendence, to be known as the American Committee. The American Committee will appoint a local committee in various parts of the country as may seem wise. Only those sports which are not antagonistic to rational physical training shall be used in the competition.

Proposed International Match.

The following cablegram regarding the proposed international competition, England vs. America, to be held next year on English soil, will be perused with much interest on this side of the Atlantic, and the contemplated challenge will meet with prompt acceptance:

LONDON, Dec. 14.—In spite of the cry of "professionalism" which the sporting public here have indulged in concerning the American athletes, the London Athletic Club will shortly challenge the New York Athletic Club to a contest in London next summer. J. B. Martin, president of the club, said yesterday that a challenge would be sent to the New York Athletic Club, this having been the sentiment of the English members of the club. He said that the Englishmen say they had nothing to complain of as to their treatment while in America, except the fact that they were not allowed to play for money, and that they will be able to do better next time.

The London Athletic Club is already in correspondence with the various athletic clubs for the purpose of securing the best material available. President Martin, in yesterday's interview, spoke very highly of American athletes, and said that he was very glad to meet and welcome an American team to England.

Considerable comment has been aroused in sporting circles by the speeches made at the recent annual dinner of the London Athletic Club at St. James's Hall. Montague Shearman, an old Oxford athlete, who presided, referred to the performance of the London Athletic Club men in America, and said that the New York Athletic Club sent into the field a team in full training, "representing the whole strength of amateur athletics in America, while the London Athletic Club did the best it could under trying circumstances." Mr. Shearman also remarked that the reason the London Athletic Club were beaten was because the Americans were more fit, well, and that if their system of amateurism was different, it produced more of the quality which, conducted on our own lines, would be more conducive to the success of any future London Athletic Club team.

Sports in an Armory.

There was a large assemblage in the armory of the Eighth Battalion, this city, on the evening of Dec. 13, when was held the joint athletic meeting of Company E and the Pastime Athletic Club. Among the performers in the various events were some athletes of note, and the entertainment proved of much interest to the spectators. Summary:

Sixty yards run.—Won by C. H. Bjorkwall, St. B. A. C., 10; J. G. Conlin, St. B. A. C., 10; second, J. J. McCormick, Y. M. C. A., 9; third, Time, 0:55. One mile bicycle race.—Won by F. F. Goodman, R. W. scratch; C. H. Liebold, R. W., 30; second, A. Barbeau, R. W., scratch, third, Time, 2:55. Eight hundred and eighty yards run, for novices.—Won by Frank A. Walh, Spaulding L. W. A. L. Tomlinson, R. M. A. C., second; J. C. Lynch, P. A. C., third, Time, 2:14.

Four hundred and forty yards run.—Won by J. McIntire, St. B. A. C., 35; J. B. Bannister, N. J. A. C., 30; second, J. K. Bell, St. B. A. C., 17; third, Time, 1:05. One mile walk.—Won by Louis Liebold, N. J. A. C., 15; H. Ward, P. A. C., 35; second, C. Liebold, Nelson A. C., 35; third, Time, 7:15.

One mile bicycle race, championship of National Guard.—Won by W. H. Owen, Co. E, Twenty-second Regiment; E. E. Fischer, Eighth Battalion, Co. A, second; J. R. Co. K, Twenty-third Regiment, third, Time, 2:40. Three quarters of a mile run.—Won by A. Walsh, N. J. A. C., scratch; O. C. Hollander, P. A. C., 35; second, W. Bedford, Barnard School, 70; third, Time, 3:25.

JAMES S. MITCHELL, the champion hammer and weight thrower, has been expelled from the New York Athletic Club, in consequence of his failure to appear before the Board of Governors at a meeting on Dec. 10, in response to a request formally made to him by the secretary. The cause of the action taken was the reception by the Board of information to the effect that Mitchell was the author of a scurrilous article which appeared in *The Mercury*, reflecting on the club in general, and one or more of its officers in particular.

The new officers of the Ariel Athletic Club, of Newark, N. J., are: President, James Waller; vice president, William Lower; recording secretary, William McCance; financial secretary, Eugene Rue; treasurer, Charles Lindberg.

BASEBALL.

OFFICIAL AVERAGES.

Work Done by the Players of the Southern Association for 1895.

The official averages of the players of the Southern Association for the season of 1895, as compiled by President Nicklin, are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL BATTING AVERAGES.

PLAYERS AND CLUBS	Games	At Bat	Runs	Hits	Per Cent.
Whistler, Chattanooga, Mobile	71	267	72	108	40.4
Stadford, New Orleans	76	229	83	115	39.4
Beard, Evansville	81	272	85	140	37.6
Butler, Nashville	66	226	78	106	37.1
Frank, Memphis	64	233	76	107	35.3
Zimmerman, New Orleans	72	289	79	112	35.3
O'Meara, Memphis	62	217	60	90	33.0
Burnett, Evansville	84	318	110	111	34.9
Myers, Nashville	66	287	61	100	34.8
Stallings, Nashville	61	275	67	94	34.1
C. McFarland, Evansville	77	364	149	124	34.1
Fisher, Evansville	84	301	118	110	34.1
Moran, Nashville	47	171	40	58	33.9
Shelton, Little Rock	59	242	54	82	33.8
Callahan, Atlanta	52	214	74	33	33.1
Wiley, Little Rock	60	264	33	89	33.0
Wilson, Atlanta	60	264	33	89	33.0
Flood, Chattanooga, Mobile	70	281	50	93	32.9
Clausen, Montgomery	81	306	50	100	32.8
Knowles, Atlanta	94	410	115	127	32.6
Armstrong, Atlanta	50	228	41	71	31.4
Flaherty, Memphis	65	279	72	90	32.5
Neal, Montgomery	28	99	12	33	32.3
Nie, New Orleans, Little Rock	46	173	30	55	31.7
Stedden, Atlanta	28	102	6	33	32.0
Dairymple, Evansville	48	210	47	66	31.4
Summer, Little Rock	26	108	14	31	31.4
Lansford, Memphis, Montgomery	41	235	34	54	31.4
Burke, Evansville	75	322	66	101	31.3
Hess, New Orleans	32	134	20	42	31.3
Quigg, Memphis	64	243	13	51	31.2
Wentz, Memphis	65	276	41	86	31.1
Gorman, Little Rock, Nashville	66	291	51	90	31.0
Powell, New Orleans, D. C.	62	289	70	112	30.8
Wright, Memphis	58	273	73	84	30.7
Lawd, Memphis	36	141	29	34	30.6
Neale, New Orleans	61	291	66	100	30.5
Friel, Atlanta	90	400	93	129	30.4
Smith, Atlanta	63	291	71	100	30.2
Smith, Memphis	59	238	63	71	29.8
Call, Little Rock	46	184	36	55	29.8
Sulz, Little Rock	50	210	52	52	29.5
Sweeney, Nashville	62	262	41	78	29.7
Delehanty, Atlanta	55	223	60	126	29.7
Morrison, Montgomery	65	241	52	73	29.4
Fisher, Chattanooga, Mobile	71	269	28	75	29.2
Dexter, Evansville	41	181	37	51	28.8
Tracy, Nashville	65	241	52	73	29.4
Burns, Chattanooga, Mobile	57	227	70	79	29.2
Sommers, Chattanooga, Mobile	91	316	25	83	28.4
Hobright, Little Rock	56	222	33	66	29.4
Cleves, Nashville	62	279	54	71	29.2
McClade, Atlanta	93	371	80	105	28.3
Horne, Atlanta	21	63	10	18	28.5
Portis, Mobile	66	249	34	61	27.5
Corcoran, Little Rock	25	101	17	28	27.7
Kelso, Montgomery	57	239	34	66	27.6
Russell, Chattanooga	51	212	30	53	27.5
McMackay, New Orleans	89	343	56	94	27.1
Hill, Mobile	37	138	13	38	27.3
Sutton, Atlanta	51	212	30	53	27.5
Mills, Evansville	77	333	107	99	27.0
Grant, New Orleans	49	193	18	38	27.0
Ely, New Orleans, Mobile	26	99	9	24	26.9
Smith, New Orleans	34	115	18	31	26.8
Griz, Nashville	53	199	3	30	26.5
Dobbs, Mobile	17	71	7	19	26.7
O'Neal, Montgomery	49	201	39	54	26.3
Jason, Evansville	27	103	10	26	26.0
Peoples, Montgomery	27	103	10	26	26.0
Keenan, Chattanooga	10	35	3	19	25.7
Sechrist, Chattanooga, N. Orleans	21	80	10	20	25.0
Dolan, Little Rock	56	236	33	60	25.4
Blackburn, Evansville	48	190	43	49	25.2
Smith, Nashville	35	140	11	29	25.2
Bennett, New Orleans	23	85	13	21	24.7
Rosenbaum, Chattanooga	42	158	21	24	24.6
Allen, Memphis	10	37	5	10	24.5
Wood, Atlanta	25	107	17	22	24.4
Knoll, Little Rock	49	198	38	48	24.2
O. McFarland, Evansville	21	80	10	20	25.0
Herman, Nashville	24	58	18	14	24.1
Goulding, New Orleans	38	150	43	77	24.0
Smith, Atlanta	36	140	11	29	24.0
Fried, Little Rock	43	156	17	37	23.7
Brantome, New Orleans	27	101	9	24	23.7
Briggs, Little Rock	44	184	11	27	23.4
Horne, Atlanta	32	137	61	23	23.3
Morse, Little Rock	19	78	7	18	22.9
Crimmin, Little Rock	19	78	7	18	22.9
Armstrong, Montgomery	18	62	4	15	22.7
Egan, New Orleans	16	69	9	15	22.0
Neuycutt, New Orleans	23	88	11	22	21.7
Peitz, Montgomery	23	88	11	22	21.7
Phelan, Mobile	57	225	30	48	21.0
Wiley, Montgomery	20	107	11	23	20.9
Ryan, Evansville	20	107	11	23	20.9
Danahy, Nashville	20	107	11	23	20.9
Barrell, Nashville	20	107	11	23	20.9
A. McFarland, Little Rock	20	107	11	23	20.9
Hayes, Montgomery	37	123	12	27	20.7
Ossenberg, Memphis	10	37	8	6	18.2
Bram, New Orleans, Evansville	10	37	8	6	18.2
C. Hain, Mobile	17	68	4	5	16.2
F. Hain, Mobile	21	78	5	6	16.6

INDIVIDUAL FIELDING AVERAGES.

CATCHERS.	Games	At Bats	Runs	Per Cent.
O'Meara, Memphis	62	267	47	97.9
Wilson, Atlanta	66	272	44	97.4
Goulding, New Orleans	38	150	14	97.3
Corcoran, Little Rock	25	101	6	96.3
Armstrong, Atlanta	50	207	10	96.1
Trost, Nashville	63	276	21	95.1
Rappold, Montgomery	49	240	10	94.7
Armstrong, Evansville	57	239	10	94.6
Fisher, Chattanooga, Mobile	71	269	23	93.9
Nie, New Orleans, Little Rock	46	173	40	93.2
Kelso, Montgomery	57	239	10	93.0
Land, Memphis	36	141	10	92.7
FIRST BASEMEN.				
Ryan, Evansville	88	316	44	98.5
Whistler, Chattanooga, Mobile	71	267	12	98.5
Knowles, Atlanta	94	310	26	97.5
Stadford, New Orleans	76	229	10	97.3
Smith, Memphis	59	238	20	97.1
Sweeney, Nashville	62	262	57	96.9
Call, Little Rock	46	184	17	96.6
Wiley, Little Rock	60	264	17	96.6
Peitz, Montgomery	23	88	9	93.9
Brantome, New Orleans	27	101	8	93.0
SECOND BASEMEN.				
Phelan, Chattanooga, Mobile	57	141	175	18.4
Delehanty, Atlanta	55	223	34	18.4
Allen, Memphis	10	37	5	18.2
Wentz, Memphis	65	276	107	32.2
Smith, Nashville	50	118	154	22.9
McFarland, New Orleans	49	221	10	22.9
O'Neil, Montgomery	49	158	147	30.9
Call, Little Rock	46	184	18	32.5
Ryan, New Orleans, England	20	51	50	29.6
THIRD BASEMEN.				
Burke, Evansville	75	121	158	23.2
Rosenbaum, Chattanooga	42	158	21	23.1
Dolan, New Orleans	91	151	246	51.9
McClade, Atlanta	93	140	226	47.8
Flaherty, Memphis	65	279	21	49.9
Morrison, Montgomery	41	60	97	42.7
Meyers, Nashville	76	181	166	42.7
Gorman, Little Rock, Nashville	66	82	52	42.7
SHORT STOPS.				
Beard, Evansville	81	167	369	42.9
Ryan, Evansville	47	118	10	16.9
Smith, Atlanta	36	140	30	51.3
Ritz, Nashville	59	79	153	36.7
Burns, Chattanooga, Mobile	72	186	25	39.9
Lynch, Nashville	39	72	107	46.0
Dolan, Little Rock	56	86	128	36.6
Zimmerman, New Orleans	70	182	13	35.8
Lansford, Memphis, Montgomery	51	89	149	43.6
LEFT FIELDERS.				
Powell, New Orleans	92	201	22	12.9
Butler, Nashville	66	116	14	8.4
Friel, Atlanta	90	164	17	13.3
Dexter, Evansville	41	74	14	13.3
Potts, Chattanooga, Mobile	66	140	14	9.6
Hayes, Montgomery	37	64	17	8.9
Hobright, Little Rock	56	107	17	8.9
Frank, Memphis	64	139	25	19.0
CENTRE FIELDERS.				
McFarland, Nashville	29	66	5	3.3
Wright, Memphis	56	151	28	6.9
Goff, New Orleans	92	199	11	6.9
McFarland, Evansville	41	104	14	8.4
Tordoneough, Atlanta	96	214	23	19.9
Sheehan, Little Rock	36	129	9	12.9
Burke, Montgomery	49	103	13	12.9
Russell, Chattanooga	51	103	41	27.9
RIGHT FIELDERS.				
Honeycutt, New Orleans	27	158	9	4.9
Briggs, Little Rock	31	95	26	46.4
Hess, New Orleans	32	55	3	4.9
McFarland, Memphis	41	104	14	8.4
Horning, Atlanta	92	108	17	8.9
Dexter, Nashville	75	116	12	9.9
Burke, Evansville	41	104	14	8.4
Flood, Chattanooga, Mobile	70	153	31	27.9

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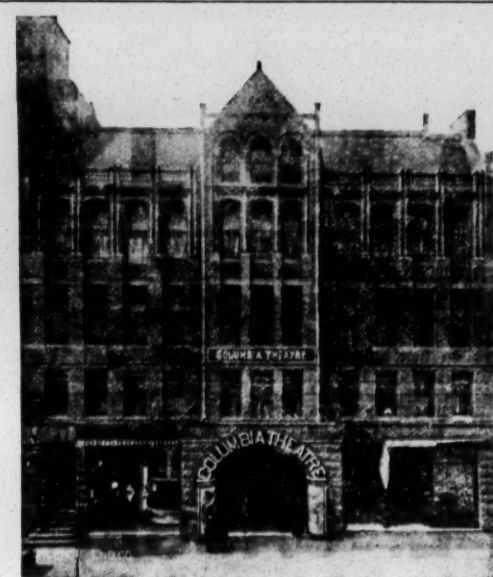
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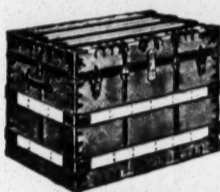
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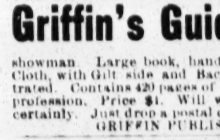
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